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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|---|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| 10/586,158 | 07/14/2006 | Shinji Kato | 02886.0098 | 5612 |
| 22852 | 7590 | 03/31/2009 | EXAMINER | |
| FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW, GARRETT & DUNNER LLP 901 NEW YORK AVENUE, NW WASHINGTON, DC 20001-4413 | | | | TOLAN, EDWARD THOMAS |
| ART UNIT | | PAPER NUMBER | | |
| 3725 | | | | |
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) | |
| | 10/586,158 | KATO ET AL. | |
| | Examiner | Art Unit | |
| | EDWARD TOLAN | 3725 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 December 2008.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 12-26 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 12-26 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 05 June 2008 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

The previous rejection using Harsch (EP 0930110) has been withdrawn in response to Applicant's amendments. Because Applicant's intended set of second preliminary amended claims (filed 6-1-2007) including new claims 25 and 26 was not in the file and not examined in the initial examination (as stated by Attorney for Applicant in the letter of 12-12-2008, with attached claim set and postcard receipt), this action is made non-final. Attorney for Applicant has requested a full translation of Harsch, this is now moot since Harsch has been withdrawn in response to the amendments of 12-29-2008.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 12-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Yoshida et al. (7,128,198). Yoshida discloses a tandem pressing line of plural presses (102,103) see (Figs. 17,20) disposed side by side and including a bed (107), plural uprights (104,105) and a slide (106). A work conveying apparatus (110) includes a main member (113) and an arm portion (74,80) located between the slide and uprights

of the plural presses (Figs. 17 and 18) with the arm portion (74,80) held on the main member to transfer work (W) between upstream and downstream presses. Figure 17 shows that the main member (113) is slidably disposed in a space between the uprights of the plural presses in a minimum spacing. The main member (113) is positioned outside a contour of the slide (106) and is fixed to the uprights (col. 20, lines 41-44) by housing (151). The main member (113) is slidably held by a guiding member (111). The guiding member (111) is fixed to the uprights by housing (151). The arm member is multi-jointed (74,80,12) as shown in Fig. 19. The arm member is extended downwardly from the main member. The work conveying apparatus is a robot. The method of transferring work is disclosed in column 18, lines 44-60 wherein the work is caught by the arm member as the slide of press (102) ascends and the arm member moves the work to a slide of a downstream press (103) as shown in phantom in Fig. 17.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Ed Tolan whose telephone number is 571-272-4525. FAX communications should be sent to 571-273-8300.

/Edward Tolan/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3725

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